Miami Dade College

Course Description

ASL2400 | Linguistics of American Sign Language | 3.00 credits

The course is designed for persons who already have an understanding of ASL principles. Provides an overview of the various systems of manual communication used in the U.S. including PSE, Cued Speech and signed English. Prerequisite: ASL2160C.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate a knowledge of the background and historical development of American Sign Language (ASL) by:

1. Describing the historical development of ASL
2. Describing how the visual orientation of deaf persons has influenced ASL
3. Demonstrating how conceptual accuracy is an integral part of ASL

Competency 2: The student will demonstrate a knowledge of the study of language and the field of linguistics by:

1. Describing the nature and characteristics of language
2. Explaining the major subfields of linguistics, such as phonology, morphology, semantics, pragmatics and syntax

Competency 3: The student will identify and explain the various linguistic principles of ASL by:

1. Identifying classifier predicates
2. Identifying locative verbs
3. Identifying numeral incorporation
4. Identifying yes-no questions
5. Identifying wh-questions
6. Identifying temporal aspects
7. Lexicalized fingerspelling and loan signs
8. Identifying non-manual signals
9. Identifying conditional sentences
10. Identifying topicalization
11. Identifying the function of space

Competency 4: The student will compare and contrast key linguistic features in ASL and English by:

1. Deriving nouns from verbs
2. Identifying subject-object agreement
3. Identifying pronouns and determiners
4. Developing compounds
5. Identifying basic sentence types

Competency 5: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the various invented systems of manual communication by:

1. Explaining the sign language continuum and locating various manual communication systems on it
2. Explaining the rationale behind the invention and use of systems of manually coded English
3. Identifying the various manual communication systems and giving their historical development
4. Performing commonly used English manual markers used in various systems of manually coded English

Learning Outcomes:
- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Use computer and emerging technologies effectively